

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to render the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections moot and to thereby place this application in condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 5 and independent claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of corresponding claims 12 and 16.

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 to include the limitations of claims 5 and 12, respectively, render the rejection of claims 1-4, 9-11 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,530) moot because claims 5 and 12 are not included in the rejection. Therefore, the rejection is not applicable to amended claims 1 and 2. The remaining rejected claims depend on claim 1 or claim 2 (directly or indirectly).

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 12, respectively, renders the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-11 and 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yabuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,671) moot because claims 3 and 12 are not included in the rejection. Therefore, the rejection is not applicable to amended claims 1 and 2. The remaining rejected claims depend on claim 1 or claim 2 (directly or indirectly).

The amendment to claim 2 to include the limitations of claim 12 renders the rejection of claims 2 and 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikuhara (JP 2000-250420) moot because claim 12 is not included in the rejection. Therefore, the rejection is not applicable to amended claim 2. The remaining rejected claims depend on claim 2 (directly or indirectly).

It is noted that claims 3, 5, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 have been cancelled and minor amendments have been made to claims 4, 6-8, 10, 13, 19, 22 and 26 to ensure definiteness.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2003, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

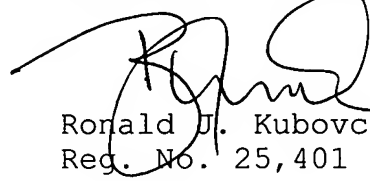
PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/026,906  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT  
NON-FINAL**

In the event any additional fees are required, please also  
charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald J. Kubovcik  
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. K&Y-166  
The Farragut Building  
Suite 710  
900 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: (202) 887-9023  
Fax: (202) 887-9093  
RJK/cfm